

Message Text

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SUBJ: US STATEMENT ON PREPCOM FOR SPECIAL SESSION, DECEMBER 5, 1974

REF: USUN 5742

1. AS PER REFTEL, TEXT OF US. STATEMENT GIVEN BY MARTIN TANK
ON PREPCOM FOR SPECIAL SESSION IS AS FOLLOWS:

MR. CHAIRMAN

IN OUR PREVIOUS INTERVENTION BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE
ON THIS SUBJECT, WE INDICATED OUR VIEW THAT THIS RESOLU-
TION IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TO BE DEALT WITH IN
THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. WE STILL FEEL THAT WAY AND THAT
IS PRIMARILY WHY WE HAVE ACCEPTED THIS RESOLUTION BY
CONSENSUS DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT DOES, IN OUR VIEW,
FALL CONSIDERABLY SHORT OF OUR EXPECTATIONS. THIS IS THE
CASE DESPITE EFFORTS MADE BY THE CO-SPONSORS TO TAKE
ACCOUNT OF OUR VIEWS. WE ARE FULLY APPRECIATIVE OF
THOSE EFFORTS AND AS THE DISTINGUISHED AMBASSADOR FROM
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MOROCCO SAID YESTERDAY THEY WERE SUCCESSFUL IN A NUMBER

OF CASES.

THE SPECIAL SESSION WAS DECIDED UPON IN RESOLUTION 3172 WHICH WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY. THAT RESOLUTION STATED ITS PURPOSE AS BEING TO EXAMINE THE POLITICAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS OF THE STATE OF WORLD DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION. WE FEEL THAT SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE ITS OBJECTIVE AND THAT ITS FOCUS SHOULD NOT BE NARROWED TO DEAL WITH SELECTED ISSUES FROM A PARTICULAR PROGRAM.

WE FEEL THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, IN PREPARING THE REPORT THAT HE HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO COMPLETE IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH FOUR, SHOULD FOCUS ON THE CONSTRAINTS TO DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING THOSE OCCASIONED BY NATIONAL LIMITATIONS IN NATURAL, HUMAN, AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR THESE ELEMENTS IN COMBINATION DETERMINE BOTH PROSPECTS AND PACE OF DEVELOPMENT. WE ALSO FEEL THAT THE SYG SHOULD LOOK FORWARD AND TAKE ACCOUNT OF CURRENT TRENDS IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION WHICH WILL, IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AT LEAST, IMPOSE SERIOUS LIMITATIONS ON THE ABILITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM PREVIOUSLY ACHIEVED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

IN THIS CONNECTION, I WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE SEVERAL SENTENCES FROM A RECENT STATEMENT MADE BY SECRETARY KISSINGER IN CHICAGO ON NOVEMBER 14. AT THAT TIME HE SAID: "IF CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS CONTINUE, WE FACE FURTHER AND MOUNTING WORLD-WIDE SHORTAGES, UNEMPLOYMENT, POVERTY, AND HUNGER. NO NATIONS, EAST OR WEST, NORTH OR SOUTH, CONSUMER OR PRODUCER, WILL BE SPARED THE CONSEQUENCES.

'AN ECONOMIC CRISIS OF SUCH MAGNITUDE WOULD INEVITABLY PRODUCE DANGEROUS POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES. MOUNTING INFLATION AND RECESSION BROUGHT ON BY REMOTE DECISIONS OVER WHICH CONSUMERS HAVE NO INFLUENCE--WILL FUEL THE FRUSTRATION OF ALL WHOSE HOPES FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND SUDDENLY AND CRUELLY REBUFFED. THIS IS FERTILE GROUND FOR SOCIAL CONFLICT AND POLITICAL TURMOIL."

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BECAUSE THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IS CHANGING SO RAPIDLY, AND THERE IS INEVITABLY A LAG IN THE AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION FROM THE USUAL PUBLIC SOURCES, WE STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SHOULD SOLICIT VIEWS FROM MEMBER STATES ON THE CURRENT ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND ON THOSE SPECIAL ISSUES WHICH MEMBER GOVERNMENTS NOW MIGHT FEEL SHOULD BE BROUGHT

TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SPECIAL SESSION. IT WOULD BE WELL IN OUR OPINION TO HAVE SUCH EVIDENCE AND VARYING JUDGMENTS REFLECTED IN THE REPORT OF THE SYG AND MADE AVAILABLE IN SUCH SUMMARY FORM TO THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR ITS EARLIEST CONSIDERATION.

WE ALSO FEEL, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT IN STUDIES OF THE CONSTRAINTS TO DEVELOPMENT, THE SITUATIONS THAT EXIST IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THEMSELVES HAS BEEN GIVEN TOO LITTLE ATTENTION IN THIS ORGANIZATION. THESE INCLUDE, OF COURSE, THE LIMITATIONS IN PARTICULAR CASES OF THE BASIC RESOURCES, AND ALSO THE AVAILABILITY OF THE NECESSARY ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES TO CARRY OUT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND ECONOMIC POLICIES IN THE PRESENT CRISIS PERIOD. WE FURTHER SUGGEST THAT THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IS OF COURSE AN IMPORTANT ISSUE, IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE CONDITIONS IN COUNTRIES RECEIVING TECHNOLOGY AND THEIR MEANS OF PUTTING PRESENT TECHNOLOGY TO EFFECTIVE USE.

WE MEAN TO SAY, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT THE "FOCUS ON CONSTRAINTS OF A GENERAL POLICY NATURE" AS USED IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 4 IS TOO NARROW A CONSIDERATION. WE DO NOT ACCEPT ANY OBLIGATION TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM OF ACTION BEYOND THE DEGREE IT IS REFLECTED IN THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND WE ARE CLEAR THAT OUR ACCEPTANCE OF THIS RESOLUTION BY CONSENSUS DOES NOT CHANGE IN ANY WAY OUR PREVIOUSLY STATED RESERVATIONS ON THE PROGRAM OF ACTION.

OUR DELEGATION CONTINUES TO HAVE DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING THE WORK THAT IS TO BE DONE BY THE SMALL GROUP OF HIGH-UNCLASSIFIED

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LEVEL EXPERTS WHO ARE TO DEAL WITH THE SUBJECT OF STRUCTURAL CHANGES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN ORDER TO MAKE IT A MORE EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT OF WORLD ECONOMIC COOPERATION. LITTLE GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PROVIDED ON THIS SUBJECT IN ANY OF THE EXTENDED DISCUSSIONS UNDERTAKEN TO DATE ON THIS RESOLUTION. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE PRODUCE WILL INDEED BE USEFUL. WE HOPE OF COURSE THAT THE EVENT WILL PROVE US INCORRECT IN THIS ASSESSMENT.

MY GOVERNMENT, MR. CHAIRMAN, HAS HAD GREAT DIFFICULTY WITH THE STATEMENT IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH SIX THAT THE SPECIAL SESSION TAKE DECISIONS TO GIVE IMPETUS TO THE STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT ON THE BASIS OF TARGETS AND SUPPORTIVE POLICY MEASURES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT WITHIN A TIME-BOUND FRAMEWORK. WHILE IN GENERAL, WE HAVE SUPPORTED

THE UTILITY OF SOME SELECTED TARGETS FOR THE SECOND DEVELOPMENT
DECADE IN THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, WE DO
NOT FEEL THAT RIGID TARGETS ACROSS THE BOARD ARE VERY
USEFUL. THEY MAY WELL DEPART FROM REALITY AND DISCOURAGE
ACTION AND THEREFORE WOULD NOT SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE IN
PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT. PREPARATORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
SHOULD BE BROADER BASED THAN THIS TARGET LANGUAGE INDICATES.
THE TARGET ISSUE ITSELF IS ONE FOR DETAILED CONSIDERATION
BY THE REVIEW AND APPRAISAL COMMITTEE AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE
ECOSOC. WE SUBMIT THAT THE SUBJECT SHOULD BE LEFT TO THOSE
BODIES.

IN CONCLUSION, MR. CHAIRMAN, WE WISH TO ADD THAT OUR
DELEGATION WILL BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE FULL IN THE PREPARATORY
COMMITTEE AND SEEK TO ADVANCE ITS WORK, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK
OF THE OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL. WE SHALL ALSO SEEK TO ASSURE THAT THE DOCUMENTATION
FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION TAKES FULL ACCOUNT OF THE ANALYSES OF
ALL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT AVAILABLE TO ECOSOC IN THE
COURSE OF ITS VARIOUS REVIEWS, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY THE
REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.
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